

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /080 W

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P R 210647Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9577

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYOI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS REPORTS USG TO EXCLUDE KOREA FROM
"PACIFIC DEFENSE LINE"

1. ON APRIL 21, TONGA ILBO, KYONGHYANG SINMUN, AND
CHUNGANG ILBO HEADLINED JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS THAT
USG WAS RE-EXAMINING ITS PACIFIC DEFENSE POSTURE TO
EXCLUDE KOREA. ACCORDING TO TOKYO SHIMBUN AND SANKEI
(AS REPORTED HERE), USG MAY REDEFINE ITS ASIAN
POLICY, DRAWING NEW WESTERN PACIFIC DEFENSE LINE
TO INCLUDE JAPAN, PHILIPPINES AND GUAM BUT TO EXCLUDE
KOREA, TAIWAN AND INDOCHINA. (REF REPORTS INITIAL ROKG
REACTION TO ORIGINAL JAPANESE PRESS STORIES AS
CARRIED BY TONGA RADIO.)

2. KOREAN PRESS ALSO NOTED JAPANESE REPORTS THAT USG
INTENDS TO REDUCE US COMMITMENT IN ASIA "BY LARGE
SCALE." IN ADDITION TO ALLEGED NEW DEFENSE LINE,
USG REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO STRENGTHEN POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC TIES WITH JAPAN AND TO FURTHER IMPROVE
US RELATIONS WITH PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

3. FURTHERMORE, SANKEI REPORTEDLY IS SAYING THAT
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KOREA AND TAIWAN WERE MERELY AUXILIARY TO USG'S
MAIN COMMITMENT TO SECURITY OF JAPAN. TOKYO SHIMBUN
REPORTEDLY NOTES THAT U.S. DEFENSE OF ROK IS "RELATED
TO ROK DOMESTIC SITUATION."

4. COMMENT: ROK PRESS CONTINUES TO BE HIGHLY SENSITIVE
TO ANY INDICATIONS OF WEAKNESS OF US COMMITMENT TO
KOREA. GIVEN NERVOUSNESS OVER THIS ISSUE, EVEN WEAKLY SOURCED
STORY SUCH AS ABOVE, GIVEN ALMOST AS HEAVY PLAY AS
RECENT REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT BY PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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